

PATENT
450100-02617**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the final rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,535,854 to Buchner et al. (hereafter, merely "Buchner").

Buchner is disqualified as §103 prior art to the present application under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 103(c)(1).

Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(c), as amended on November 29, 1999, presently 35 U.S.C. §103(c)(1), subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one of more of subsections (e), (f) and (g) of 35 U.S.C. §102, shall not preclude patentability under §103 where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person or organization. Buchner and the present application were, at the time the present invention was made, subject to an obligation of assignment to the same organization, i.e., Sony Corporation. It should be noted that Buchner was assigned to Sony International (Europe) GmbH, which is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation. Appended herewith is a document showing the affiliation between Sony Corporation and Sony Europe G.M.B.H. (GERMANY).

Thus, all of the outstanding rejections based upon Buchner in the above-noted Office Action are overcome.

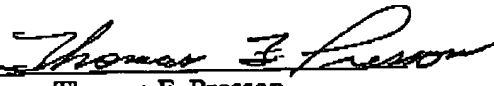
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CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800

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SONY CORP
DISCLO COMPANY NUMBER: S472500000
TICKER SYMBOL: SNE EXCHANGE: NYS

7-35 Kita Shinagawa 4-Chome
Shinagawa-Ku 140-0001 Tokyo JAPAN, JP
354482180

Financial Statements (.xls)

SUBSIDIARIES: SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT (JAPAN) INC.

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